

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 11, and 14 have been amended and claims 2-3 and 12-13 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Therefore, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 4-11, and 14 will be pending. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Action dated January 10, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by European Patent No. EP2002-313070 to Koji or European Patent No. EP Koji 220-35442 to Koichiro, and rejected claims 2, 5-10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Koji or Koichiro in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 11-213627 to Mitsuyuki. The Examiner, however, indicated that claims 3, 4, 13, and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

To overcome the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of claims 2 and 3 and amended claim 11 to incorporate the features of claims 12 and 13. As original claims 3 and 13 contain patentable features as indicated by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 1 and 11 are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to the rejection of dependent claims 5-10, Applicant respectfully submits that such claims are also patentable at least due to their dependency from patentable amended independent claim.

As a result of these Amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the formal matters have now been addressed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment so that this application may be passed quickly to issue.

Applicant's Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the Undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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